

During the Korean War, approximately 1.8 million members of the United States Armed Forces fought in places such as Pork Chop Hill, Pusan Perimeter, and the Chosin Reservoir. During the intense fighting, approximately 34,000 American lives were lost in combat; 92,000 were wounded; and more than 8,000 listed as missing in action or taken prisoner. Their distinguished service reminds us of the words engraved on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington—"Freedom Is Not Free."

As we face the challenges of a new era and a new war, we look to America's Korean War veterans for their example of dedication and sacrifice in defending freedom. These men and women faced a formidable adversary and endured harsh and bitter conditions in upholding our Nation's heritage of valor, tenacity, and honor during this important stand against Communist aggression. For their gallantry in action, 131 servicemen earned our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. More than 90 of them received the award posthumously.

Forty-nine years ago, the Military Armistice Agreement ended the fighting and stopped the spread of Communism in Korea. In order to thank and honor veterans of the Korean War and their families, America will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War through November 11, 2003. Today, as the Republic of Korea stands as a strong, democratic, and progressive nation, we thank our Korean War veterans for serving our Nation and the world with courage and distinction. These patriots advanced the principles and ideals upon which our Nation was founded, and they helped promote liberty, opportunity, and hope.

The Congress, by Public Law 104-19, as amended (36 U.S.C. 127), has designated July 27, 2002, as "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day," and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2002, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to

our distinguished Korean War veterans. I also ask Federal departments and agencies and interested groups, organizations, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on July 27, 2002, in memory of the Americans who died as a result of their service in Korea.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 29, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 30.

Proclamation 7580—Parents' Day, 2002

July 26, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Parenthood is a profound blessing, bringing with it responsibilities that are both challenging and rewarding. The care, dedication, and attention of parents are critical to their children's success. As they teach, guide, and nurture, parents help their children to realize their potential and achieve their dreams. Parents also play a critical role in shaping their children's character by sharing important life-lessons and values and showing them how to love and care for others.

As we face the challenges of a new era, families remain the foundation of our civil society; and parents are the cornerstone of strong families. This important responsibility often presents difficult problems and trying circumstances as parents balance competing demands such as making a living, raising their children, and participating in their communities.

Our Nation has made great progress in recognizing the importance of effective parenting, but there is still much to do. My Administration is committed to promoting a

healthier society by helping parents build stronger families. Many studies have shown that children do better in two-parent households where the parents are married; and as part of our plan to promote the well-being of children, I have committed significant resources to programs that encourage healthy and stable marriages. While no law can ensure that people love one another, we can support initiatives that help couples learn how to build successful marriages and be good parents.

My Administration supports community-based efforts that help delinquent fathers improve their lives so they can become effective parents. With job training, employment, counseling, and career advancement education, we hope to make it easier for more fathers to have positive relationships with their sons and daughters. We have also taken important steps to empower and inform parents through the No Child Left Behind Act, ensuring that they will be vital partners in their children's education. Further, every child in America deserves to live in a safe, stable, and loving family; my Administration is committed to increasing public awareness about the importance of adoption and to encouraging Americans to consider adopting children. By pursuing these significant measures, we increase compassion in our society, and we make America a better place for all.

The nurturing and development of children require widespread investment, focus, and commitment. While Government plays an important role in this process, citizens, schools, and civic institutions must also assist parents by reaching out to help meet the needs of young people in their communities. By working together to provide for our children, we will show them the way to a brighter future.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103-362, as amended, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 28, 2002, as Parents' Day. I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the millions of mothers and fathers, biological and adoptive, foster parents, and stepparents, whose selfless love and determined efforts

influence lives for the good of their children and our Nation. I also urge all Americans to express their love, respect, and appreciation to our parents, and I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 30, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 31.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 21

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

July 22

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Argonne, IL, and later returned to Washington, DC.

July 23

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. Also in the morning, he had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to discuss cooperation against terrorism and Secretary of State Colin Powell's upcoming visit to Southeast Asia.

In the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met first with House Democrats and then with House Republicans to discuss homeland security. Later, he dropped